



# House of Representatives

## File No. 817

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**(Reprint of File No. 479)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6657  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 31, 2003

### **AN ACT CONCERNING THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) There is established a Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs  
4 Commission. The initial appointees shall include all members of the  
5 Governor's Council for Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs established by  
6 Executive Order No. Ten of Governor Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. The terms  
7 of such initial appointees shall expire on January 31, 1995.

8 (b) On and after February 1, 1995, the commission shall consist of  
9 thirteen members, appointed as follows: (1) Three by the Governor,  
10 one of whom shall serve for a term of one year from said February first  
11 and have expertise in the field of education, one of whom shall serve  
12 for a term of two years from said February first and have expertise in  
13 the field of human services, and one of whom shall serve for a term of  
14 three years from said February first and have expertise in the fields of

15 small business and economic development, and each of whom  
16 thereafter shall serve for terms of three years from February first in the  
17 year of their appointment and have expertise in the field of the  
18 member's predecessor; (2) two by the president pro tempore of the  
19 Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in the field of children and  
20 youth development and one of whom shall have expertise in the field  
21 of health; (3) one by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a  
22 member of the public; (4) two by the minority leader of the Senate, one  
23 of whom shall have expertise in the field of environment and one of  
24 whom shall have expertise in the field of arts and culture; (5) two by  
25 the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have  
26 expertise in the field of housing and one of whom shall have expertise  
27 in the field of public safety; (6) one by the majority leader of the House  
28 of Representatives, who shall be a member of the public; and (7) two  
29 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom  
30 shall have expertise in the field of transportation and one of whom  
31 shall be a member of the public. All members appointed under this  
32 subsection shall have experience in the field of Latino and Puerto  
33 Rican affairs. All members appointed under subdivision (2), (3), (4),  
34 (5), (6) or (7) of this subsection shall serve for terms of two years from  
35 February first in the year of their appointment. The commission shall  
36 elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members.  
37 Any person absent from (A) three consecutive meetings of the  
38 commission, or (B) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar  
39 year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission, effective  
40 immediately. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the  
41 appointing authority. Members of the commission shall serve without  
42 compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be  
43 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of  
44 their duties. The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary  
45 by the chairperson or a majority of the commission.

46 (c) The commission shall:

47 (1) Review and comment on any proposed state legislation and  
48 regulations that would affect the Latino and Puerto Rican populations

49 in the state and provide to the members of the General Assembly  
50 copies of any such comments;

51 (2) Advise and provide information to the Governor and the  
52 General Assembly on the state's policies concerning the Latino and  
53 Puerto Rican communities;

54 (3) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the  
55 coordination and administration of state programs serving the Latino  
56 and Puerto Rican populations;

57 (4) Maintain a liaison between the Latino and Puerto Rican  
58 communities and governmental entities, including, but not limited to,  
59 the General Assembly;

60 (5) Encourage Latino and Puerto Rican representation at all levels of  
61 state government, including state boards and commissions, and  
62 maintain an accessible list of prospective appointees who are members  
63 of the Latino or Puerto Rican community;

64 (6) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and  
65 contributions of Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;  
66 [and]

67 (7) Work in consultation with the joint committee of the General  
68 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative  
69 management for the purpose of establishing a plan of short-term and  
70 long-term initiatives based on the needs of the Latino and Puerto Rican  
71 community; and

72 [(7)] (8) Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report  
73 concerning its activities with any appropriate recommendations  
74 concerning the Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and  
75 submit a copy of the report to the joint committee of the General  
76 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to legislative  
77 management, which committee shall distribute a copy of the report to  
78 each member of the General Assembly.

79      (d) Any report required to be submitted to the General Assembly  
80      under subsection (c) of this section shall be submitted not later than  
81      January first, annually, in accordance with section 11-4a.

82      ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The commission may use such funds as may be available  
83      from federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to  
84      carry out the purposes of this section.

85      ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The commission may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67,  
86      employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

87      ~~[(f)]~~ (g) On and after February 1, 1995, the commission shall be part  
88      of the Legislative Department.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Lat. & P.R. Affairs Com.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill as amended requires the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission to submit copies of certain information submitted to the Governor to be submitted to the General Assembly as well, which result in no fiscal impact to the agency. Additionally, the bill requires the commission to work in partnership with the Legislative Management Committee to develop long and short term initiatives, which results in no fiscal impact to the agency.

House "A" strikes the original bill and its associated fiscal impact and becomes the bill. The resulting fiscal impact is discussed above.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

SHB 6657 (as amended by House "A") \*

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN  
AFFAIRS COMMISSION AND THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission to make available to the General Assembly information on Latino and Puerto Rican populations in the state and further modifies or expands the commission's duties. Specifically, it requires the commission to:

1. give legislators copies of any comments it makes on proposed state legislation or regulations that would affect the Puerto Rican population;
2. advise and provide information to the legislature, just as it currently does the governor, on state policies concerning this population;
3. advise the legislature, just as it currently does the governor, on the coordination and administration of state programs serving this population;
4. maintain an accessible list of prospective appointees to state board and commissions from Latino or Puerto Rican community;
5. work with the Joint Committee on Legislative Management to establish short- and long-term initiatives to meet the needs of the community; and
6. give a copy of its annual report to the committee for distribution to each legislator.

Lastly, the bill sets January 1 as the annual date for the commission to submit required reports to the General Assembly.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill, which required the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs and the African American Affairs commissions to provide the legislature with information on, and advise it on state programs serving, these populations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Legislative History***

On April 30, the House referred the bill (File 479) to the Legislative Management Committee, which reported it favorably on May 8.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19      Nay 0

Legislative Management Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 14      Nay 6